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Stan Lee Presents:
WOLVERINE "BLACK SHADOW WHITE SHADOW" 1
WRITER — Marv Wolfman
ART — John Buscema
LETTERER — Phil Felix
COLORIST — Nel Yomtov

"BLOOD CRAZE" — PART 7 OF 10
Wolverine and his friends have made their way through China to the mountaintop hospital where the menacing Black Shadow was born. Logan is about to enter.

WONDER MAN "STARDUST MISERIES" 9
WRITER — Michael Higgins
PENCILER — Javier Saltares
INKER — José Marzan
LETTERER — Ken Lopez
COLORIST — Tom Vincent

"WIPEOUT" — PART 7 OF 8
The experiment to bestow godhood upon WONDER MAN begins, and the lives of the Mighty Avengers hang in the balance!
Will Thor and Captain America arrive in time to save their teammates or will the Enchantress see her mad plans through to fruition?

DR. STRANGE 17
WRITER — Roy Thomas
ART — Dave Simons
LETTERER — Janice Chiang
COLORIST — Nel Yomtov

"TRASHED"
Dr. Strange is the Sorcerer Supreme — but as we all know, every sorcerer must have an apprentice. Rintrah R'vaal is that apprentice, but a little magical knowledge is a dangerous thing as all of New York will soon discover.

PUMA 25
WRITER — Dan Mishkin
PENCILER — Gavin Curtis
INKER — Bob Wiacek
LETTERER — Ken Lopez
COLORIST — Brad Vancata

"...AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK"
Thomas Firehart is a man of the modern world, a wealthy entrepreneur with holdings around the globe.
He is also Puma, a product of ancient mysticism and controlled genetics bred to be the perfect warrior and the protector of his American Indian tribe. Some call him hero, some villain, ...and some suspect he may be more.

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BLACK SHADOW!
WHITE SHADOW!
CHAPTER VII
FEATURING:
WOLVERINE
BLOOD CRAZE!
I FEEL AS IF I WERE IN ONE OF THOSE LOUSY HAUNTED HOUSE MOVIES. THE PLACE WAS DARK AND COLD AN' CALLIN' AT ME TO ENTER...
...ALL THE WHILE WARNIN' ME TO RUN.
BUT I NEVER RUN.
MAYBE I'M AN IDIOT.
I TAKE MY FIRST STEP INSIDE AN' ALREADY FEEL THE NUMBNESS CRAWLIN' UP MY BACK.

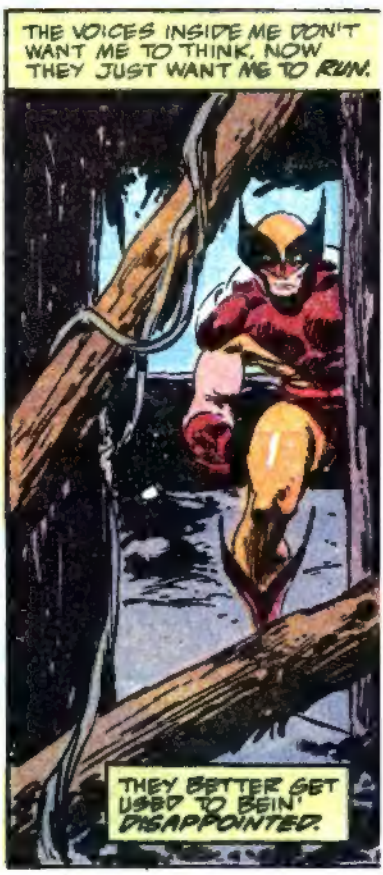
I HEAR THE VOICES--CLEAR, NOT IN MY HEAD BUT SURROUNDIN' IT. LIKE CHARLIE TELEPATHICALLY CALLIN' ...
...BUT THE VOICES ARE COLD. THEY WANT ME HERE...
...THEN THE NEXT MINUTE THEY DON'T.

DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THEY WANT. I'M NOT LEAVIN' TILL I FIND WHAT I CAME FOR
...THE BLACK SHADOW.
THE THING THAT KILLED MY FRIEND AND HOW MANY HUNDREDS MORE.

I'VE SMELLED PLACES LIKE THIS BEFORE, BACK IN THE STATES. I KNOW THAT SMELL OF DECAY...
...OF MINDS THAT WENT BAD SOMEWHERE AND SOMEHOW DOWN THE LINE.

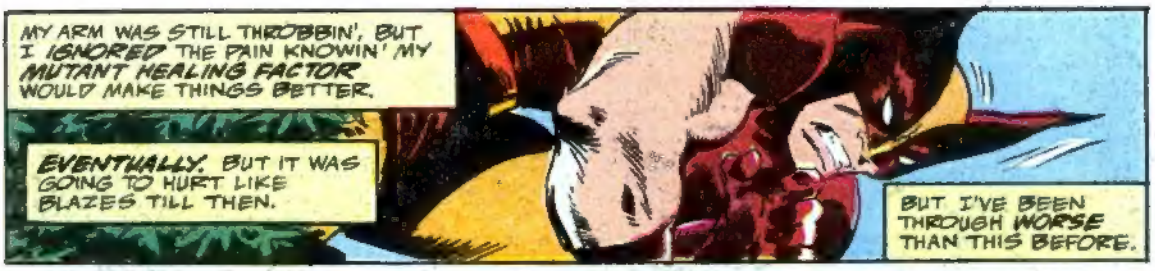
THIS WAS A PLACE OF MADNESS BEFORE THE BLACK SHADOW INSANITY WAS EVER SPAWNED.
THIS WAS AN INSANE ASYLUM.
PERFECT BREEDING PLACE...

BUT FOR WHAT?
WHAT WAS HE BEFORE HE BECAME BLACK SHADOW? OR WAS HE ALWAYS THAT... THING?
THEN THERE WAS THE WHITE SHADOW...

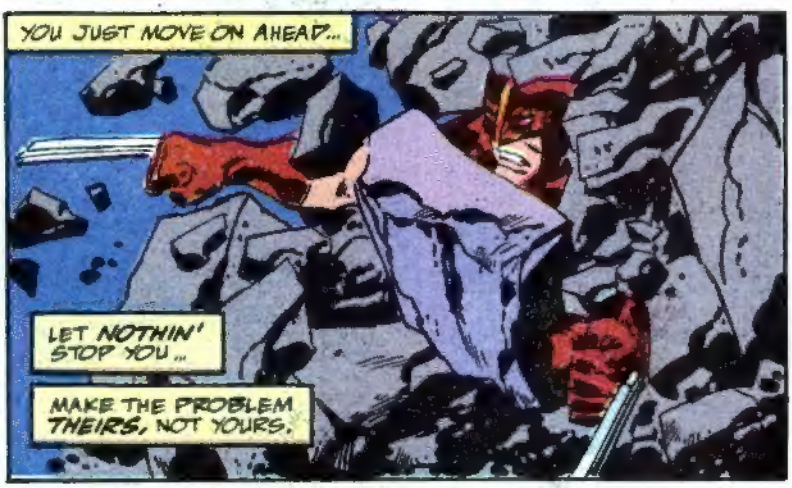

THE VOICES INSIDE ME DON'T WANT ME TO THINK, NOW THEY JUST WANT ME TO RUN.
THEY BETTER GET USED TO BEIN' DISAPPOINTED.

I SMELLED MAI AND CH'UN SOON'S I ENTERED THIS HOLE. I HEARD THEM BREATHIN'.
SLOWLY... VERY SLOWLY, BUT STEADY, SO I KNEW THEY WERE ALIVE.
"PATCH"-- LEAVE... LEAVE NOW--
I JUST DIDN'T LIKE FINDIN' THEM THE WAY I DID.
--LEAVE BEFORE HE KILLS YOU, TOO.
SHE FAINTED AGAIN JUST AS I SMELLED SOMETHIN' AKIN TO WALKIN' SCUM SLITHERIN' UP BEHIND ME.
NO WAY I COULDN'T LOOK.
LEAVE HERE--I CANNOT STOP HIM FOREVER.
DON'T WANT YOU TO...
JUST POINT ME AT 'IM. I'LL DO THE REST.
THEY ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD... THERE IS NO REASON FOR HIM TO KILL YOU, TOO.
THEY'RE NOT DYIN'.
AN' I'M NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE BUT STRAIGHT AHEAD.
I PREPARED MYSELF...
BOY SCOUT TRAININ'.
SNIKT!
SNIKT!

WHY? I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY!
YOU'LL DO.
DON'T TRUST EITHER OF YOU TWO.
M-MY HAND... YOU FROZE IT... BARELY FEEL MY FINGERS.
NOT THAT IT MATTERS. IT'S STILL NOT GOIN' TO STOP ME.
THEN YOU ARE A FOOL.
AND I AM ONE FOR NOT DESTROYING YOU.
YOU STAND IN MY WAY. I AM ALL THAT PREVENTS HIM FROM DESTROYING ALL.
GET OUT! STAY AWAY! I WILL DO ALL I CAN.
THUNK
SOMEHOW THAT DIDN'T EXACTLY FILL ME WITH CONFIDENCE.
WAK
'SIDES, THERE WERE TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

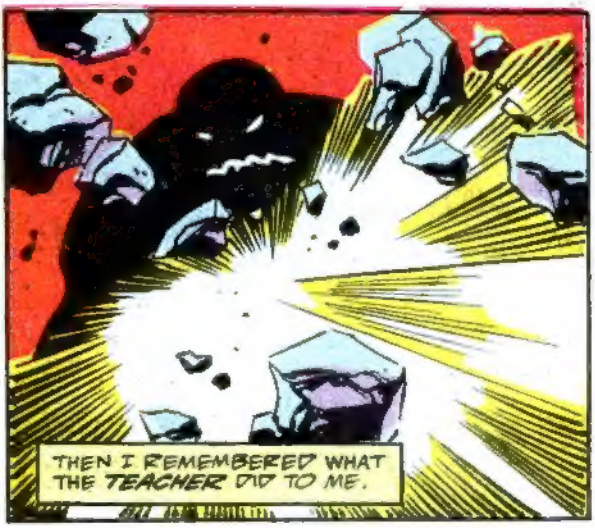

MY ARM WAS STILL THROBBIN', BUT I IGNORED THE PAIN KNOWIN' MY MUTANT HEALING FACTOR WOULD MAKE THINGS BETTER.
EVENTUALLY. BUT IT WAS GOING TO HURT LIKE BLAZES TILL THEN.
BUT I'VE BEEN THROUGH WORSE THAN THIS BEFORE.

YOU DON'T CONCENTRATE ON IT, IT DOESN'T GET YOU DOWN.


YOU JUST MOVE ON AHEAD...
LET NOTHIN' STOP YOU...
MAKE THE PROBLEM THEIRS, NOT YOURS.

FOOL... YOU WERE WARNED BY US...
NOW IT IS TOO LATE!

GOT IN TROUBLE IN THE FIRST GRADE FOR NOT LISTENIN' TO INSTRUCTIONS.
POOT!
SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.

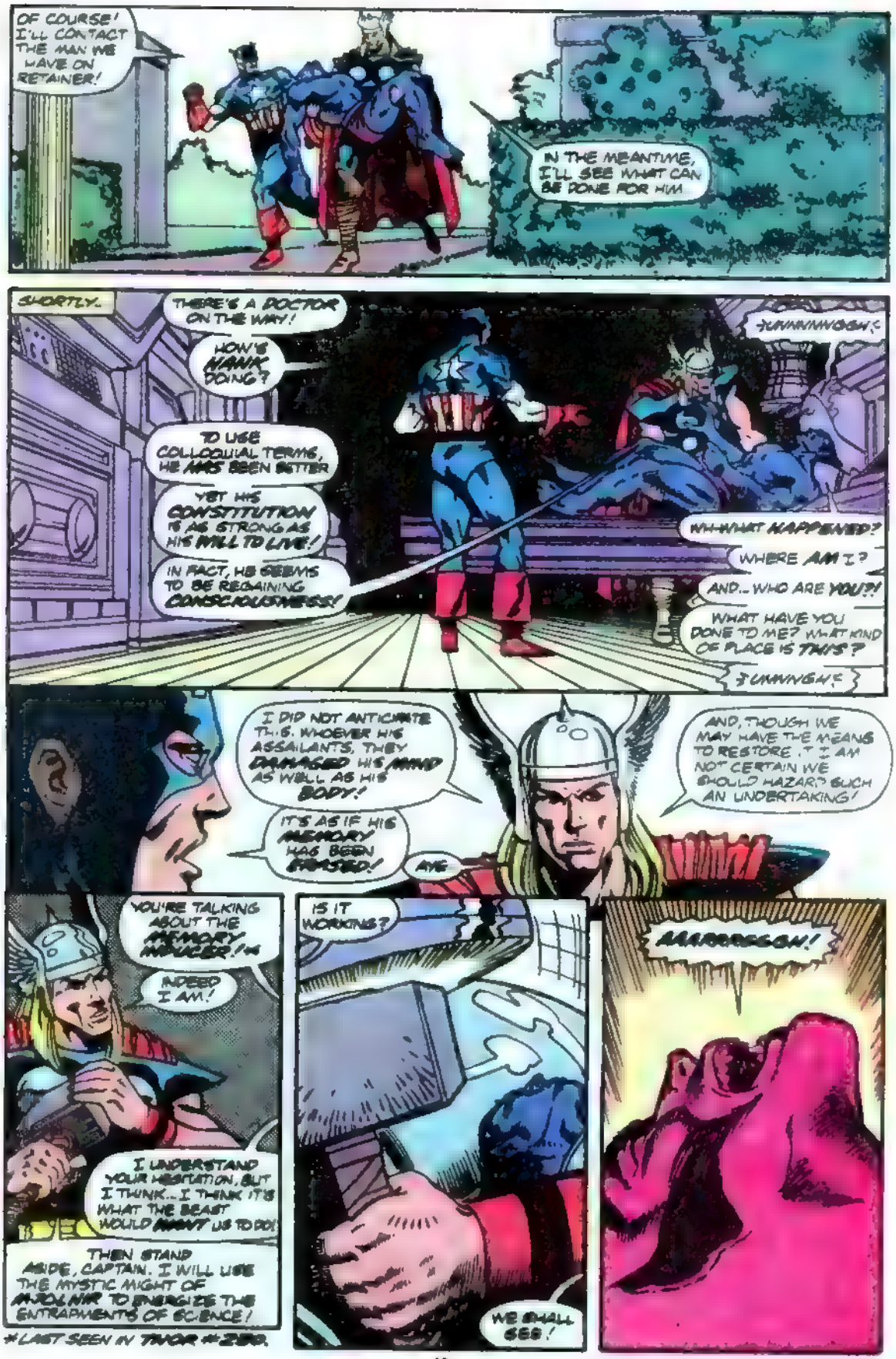

THEN I REMEMBERED WHAT THE TEACHER DID TO ME.

'KAY, PAL, YOU 'N ME.
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
KNEW I COULDN'T DESTROY IT, BUT THAT WASN'T MY INTENT.
I NEEDED BREATHIN' ROOM...
...AN' I HAD TO TAKE SOME RISKS TO GET IT.
MOVED THROUGH IT TO THE NEXT ROOM... FROZEN TO THE BONE, BUT STILL ALIVE.
THE THING MOVES SLOW. I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO RECOVER...
...OR MAYBE NOT!

WASN'T EXPECTIN' WHAT WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL.
LOOKED ALMOST DEAD, 'CEPT HIS BODY FAT ROLLED AND SHIMMIED 'CROSS HIS GUT, HIS TREE-STUMP LEGS SHIFTED...
-AN' HIS BARREL-LIKE FINGER'S 'N TOES STRETCHED.
HE WAS ALIVE, OR WHAT PASSED FOR ALIVE, AND FROM THE LOOK IN HIS THICK-SLIT EYES, HE WAS STARK, RAVIN' MAD!

HE JUST SAT THERE, SILENT, MAY AS WELL HAVE BEEN A CORPSE 'CEPT FOR THOSE EYES.
THEY FOLLOWED ME, OR AT LEAST THEY SEEMED TO.
MOVED CLOSER.
NOT QUICKLY THIS TIME. WASN'T SURE WHAT I HAD HERE ...
... AN' I CERTAINLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.
THE THICK KNOT OF FLESH AROUND HIS HEART BECAME TRANSPARENT AND BEGAN TO SHIMMER.
THEN EVEN I CONSIDERED SCREAMIN'!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...
ORIGINS!

Stardust Miseries
PART 7
WIPEOUT
FEATURING:
WONDER MAN
BY THE GODS, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
OUR COMRADE--- THE BEAST!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S TAKEN QUITE A BEATING, THOR!
HOW SERIOUS DO YOU THINK IT IS?
I CANNOT SAY FOR CERTAIN. FOR THAT WE WOULD NEED A QUALIFIED PHYSICIAN!


OF COURSE! I'LL CONTACT THE MAN WE HAVE ON RETAINER!
IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR HIM
SHORTLY...
THERE'S A DOCTOR ON THE WAY!
HOW'S HANK DOING?
TO USE COLLOQUIAL TERMS, HE HAS BEEN BETTER
YET HIS CONSTITUTION IS AS STRONG AS HIS WILL TO LIVE!
IN FACT, HE SEEMS TO BE REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS!
JUNNNNGH!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE AM I?
AND... WHO ARE YOU?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME? WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?
JUNNNGH!
I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THIS. WHOEVER HIS ASSAILANTS, THEY DAMAGED HIS MIND AS WELL AS HIS BODY!
IT'S AS IF HIS MEMORY HAS BEEN ERASED!
AYE
AND, THOUGH WE MAY HAVE THE MEANS TO RESTORE IT I AM NOT CERTAIN WE SHOULD HAZARD SUCH AN UNDERTAKING!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MEMORY MOLDER!*?
INDEED I AM!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR HESITATION, BUT I THINK... I THINK IT'S WHAT THE BEAST WOULD WANT US TO DO!
THEN STAND ASIDE, CAPTAIN. I WILL USE THE MYSTIC MIGHT OF MJOLNIR TO ENERGIZE THE ENTRAPMENTS OF SCIENCE!
IS IT WORKING?
WE SHALL SEE!
AAARRRGGN!

*LAST SEEN IN THOR #280.

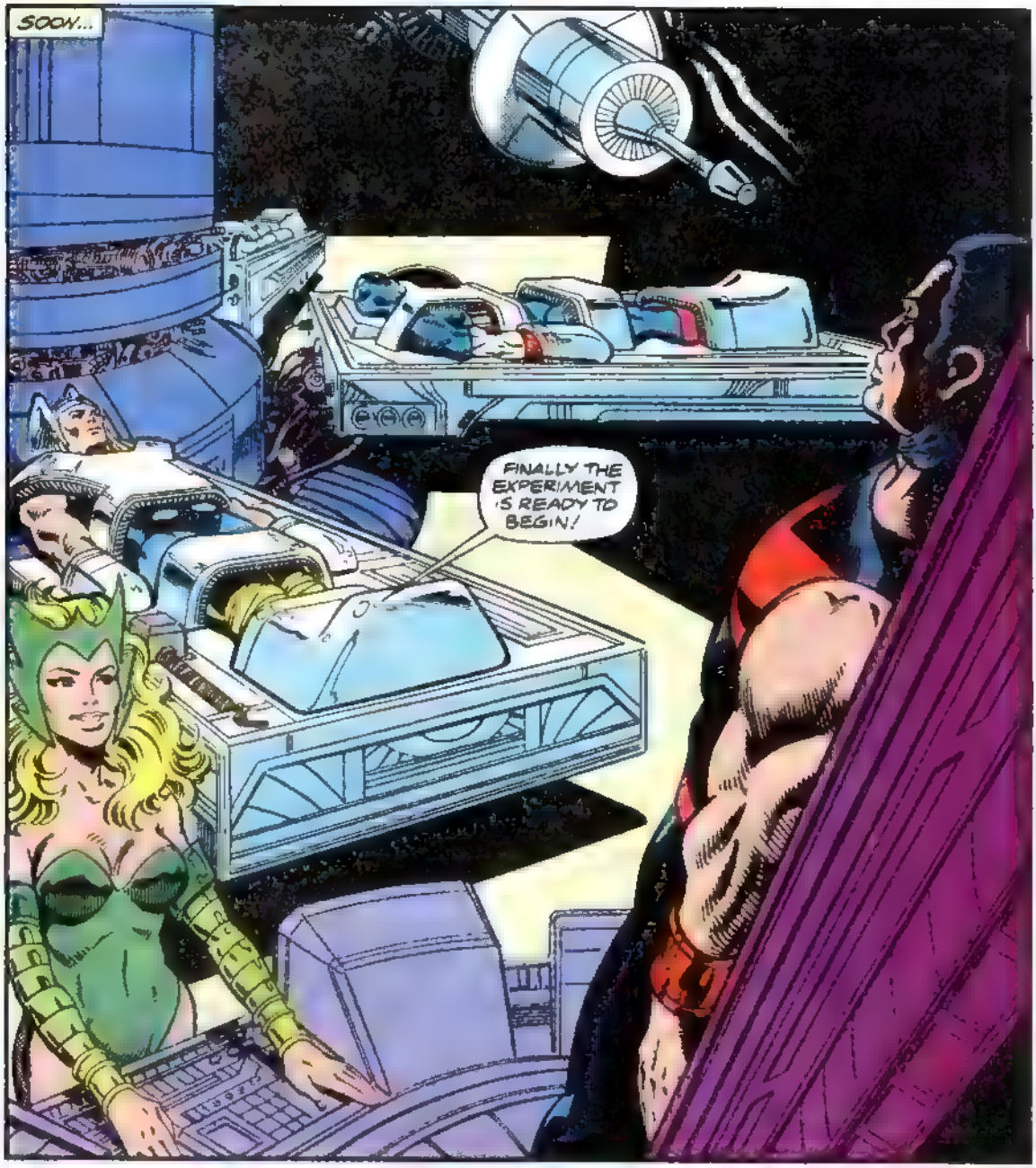
MEANWHILE AND ELSEWHERE..
THE TIME DRAWS NEAR, WONDER MAN--
--AND THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES WILL PROVIDE THE MEANS OF THEIR OWN ANNIHILATION!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT, ENCHANTRESS--
TO SEE THESE CREEPS GET WHAT THEY DESERVE!
MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE BEAST WON'T BE HERE TO SHARE IN THEIR SUFFERINGS!
HE IS OF NO CONCERN! IT IS THESE OTHERS WHO HAVE FED THE RANCOR IN MY SOUL FOR SO LONG--
--THOSE WHO THWARTED OUR PLANS SO LONG AGO--
--THOSE WHO STOLE YOU FROM ME AND CLOUDED YOUR MIND WITH THEIR HORRIBLE LIES!
BESIDES, OUR INTENTION IS TO FILL YOU WITH THEIR ENERGIES AS THEY BREATHE THEIR DYING BREATHS!
I WOULD LITTLE RISK SEEING MY MAN BECOME HIDEOUSLY FUR-COVERED!
I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE--
--THOUGH I DARE SAY, GODHOOD WILL SUIT YOU WELL!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!
IT HARDLY APPEARS THAT YOU'RE IN ANY POSITION TO STOP ME!
OR ARE YOU ANTICIPATING THE AID OF ANT-MAN AND THE WASP, WHO LIE EQUALLY HELPLESS BESIDE YOU?
THERE ARE OTHERS
OH, I AM WELL AWARE OF THAT, AND THEIR ARRIVAL IS AWAITED WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION!
IT IS MY INTENTION THAT THEY SHARE YOUR FATE!

AND...
HE LIES UNCONSCIOUS ONCE MORE..
BUT HIS TALE IS ONE MOST PROFANE INDEED!
SURELY, THE ENCHANTRESS WILL PAY FOR HER HEINOUS ACTS!
AND I AM SORRY, CAPTAIN THAT OLD WOUNDS HAVE BEEN REOPENED!
I APPRECIATE THAT, THUNDER GOD! IT'S STILL SO PAINFUL TO THINK OF ALL THAT ZEMO DID..
.. OF BUCKY...!
I UNDERSTAND MY FRIEND
LET US AWAY...
...THAT WE MAY PUT AN END TO THIS TRAVESTY!
SOON.. THE AMAZON RAINFOREST!
CAN'T SAY THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF PLEASANT MEMORIES
THEN LET US BE DONE WITH THIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
STAND BACK--
KRRR
RKKL
--AND LET MIGHTY MJOLNIR LEAD THE WAY!

RRMBL
WHAT--?!
NOTHING UNEXPECTED, MY LOVE--
MERELY THE LAST OF OUR LITTLE PARTY TO ARRIVE!
WONDER MAN! DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME?
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, FEATHERWEIGHT!
THEN HAVE AT THEE!
KBOOM
NICE WORK, THOR--
--RIGHT WHERE I WANTED HIM!
AND YOU, CURSED ONE, ARE RIGHT WHERE I WANT YOU!

I THINK NOT, WITCH!
SHWKKT
TOO BAD YOU'RE A WOMAN OR I'D GIVE YOU THE TROUNCING YOU DESERVE!
HOW DARE YOU TALK THAT WAY ABOUT THE WOMAN I LOVE?!
CRIPES! NOW I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING!
FRET NOT, DEAREST.
HE'S FALLEN RIGHT INTO OUR TRAP!
OH, BROTHER!
IN THE FUTURE, LOVER, JUST BE CAREFUL OF THE MACHINERY-- WE'RE GOING TO NEED IT!

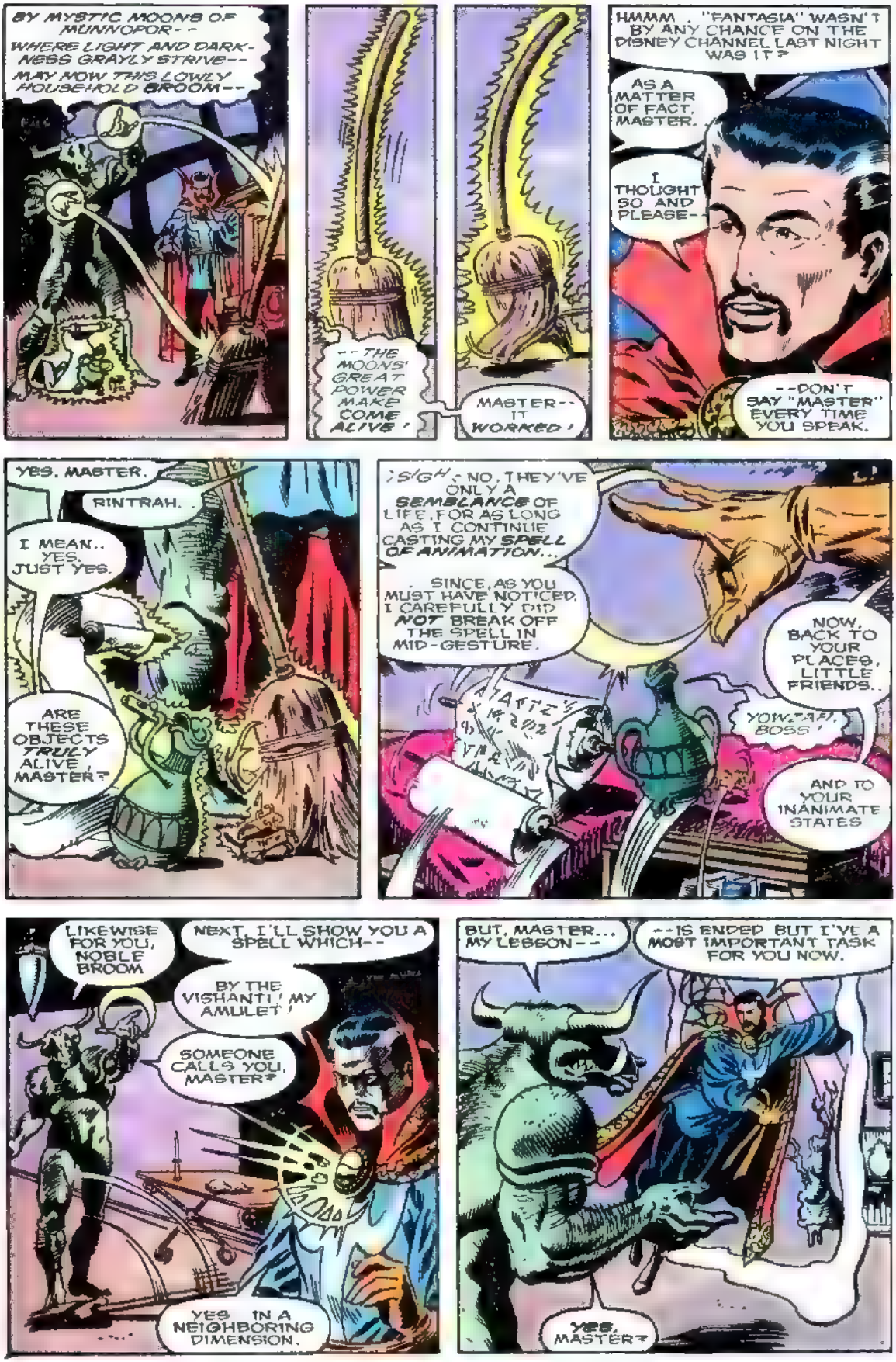
THEN PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO HASTEN ITS DESTRUCTION!
HA! HA! HA!
YOU FOOL! YOU'VE PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS!
THE POWER OF MJOLNIR IS NOW MINE!
AND YOUR POWER AS WELL IS BEING BLED!
UNHHH!
LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU DO NOW, "OLD FRIEND"!
KPOW
LOOKS LIKE THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE!



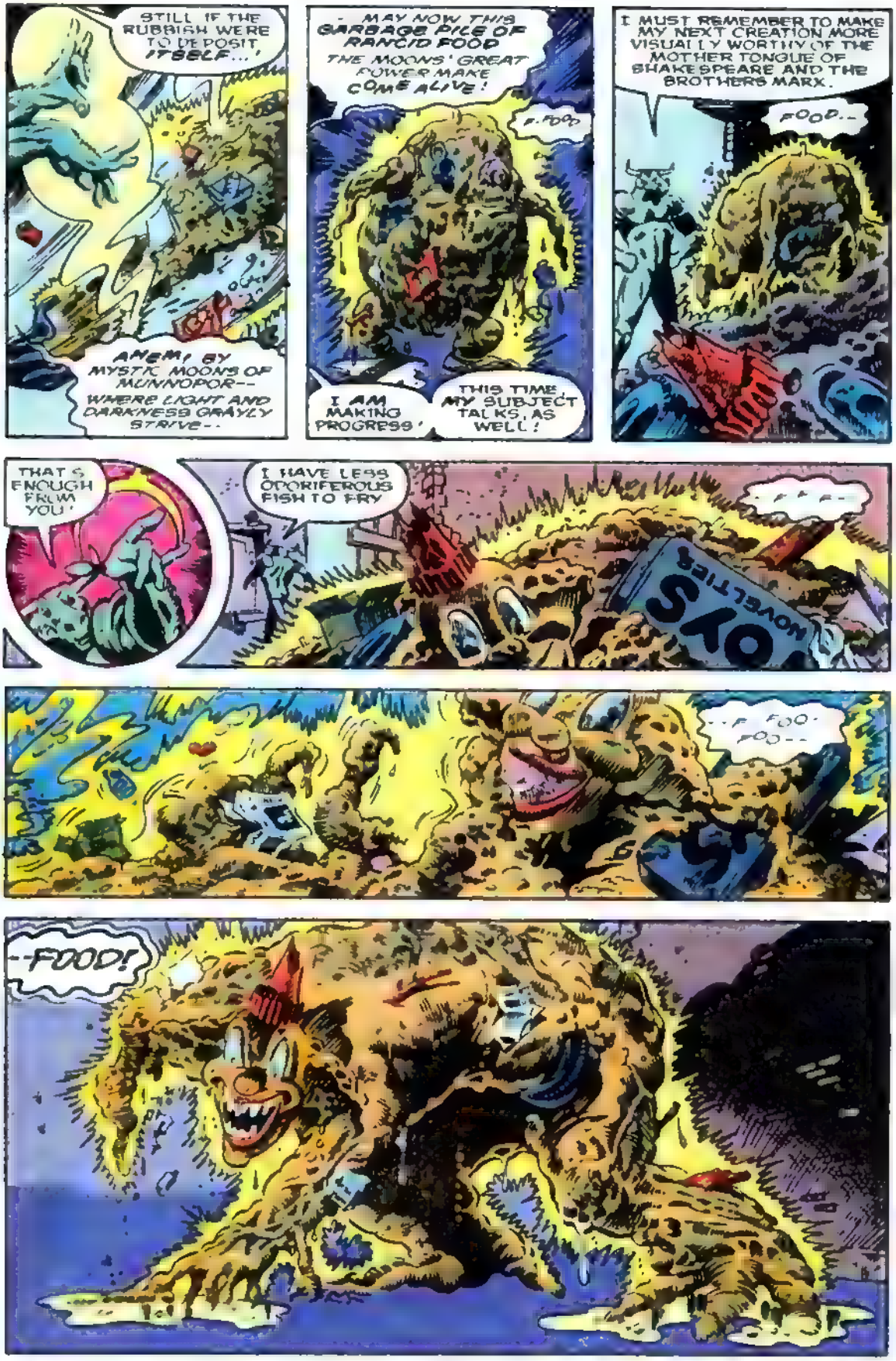
NEXT ISSUE: AT LAST! THE CONCLUSION OF THE WONDER MAN SAGA!

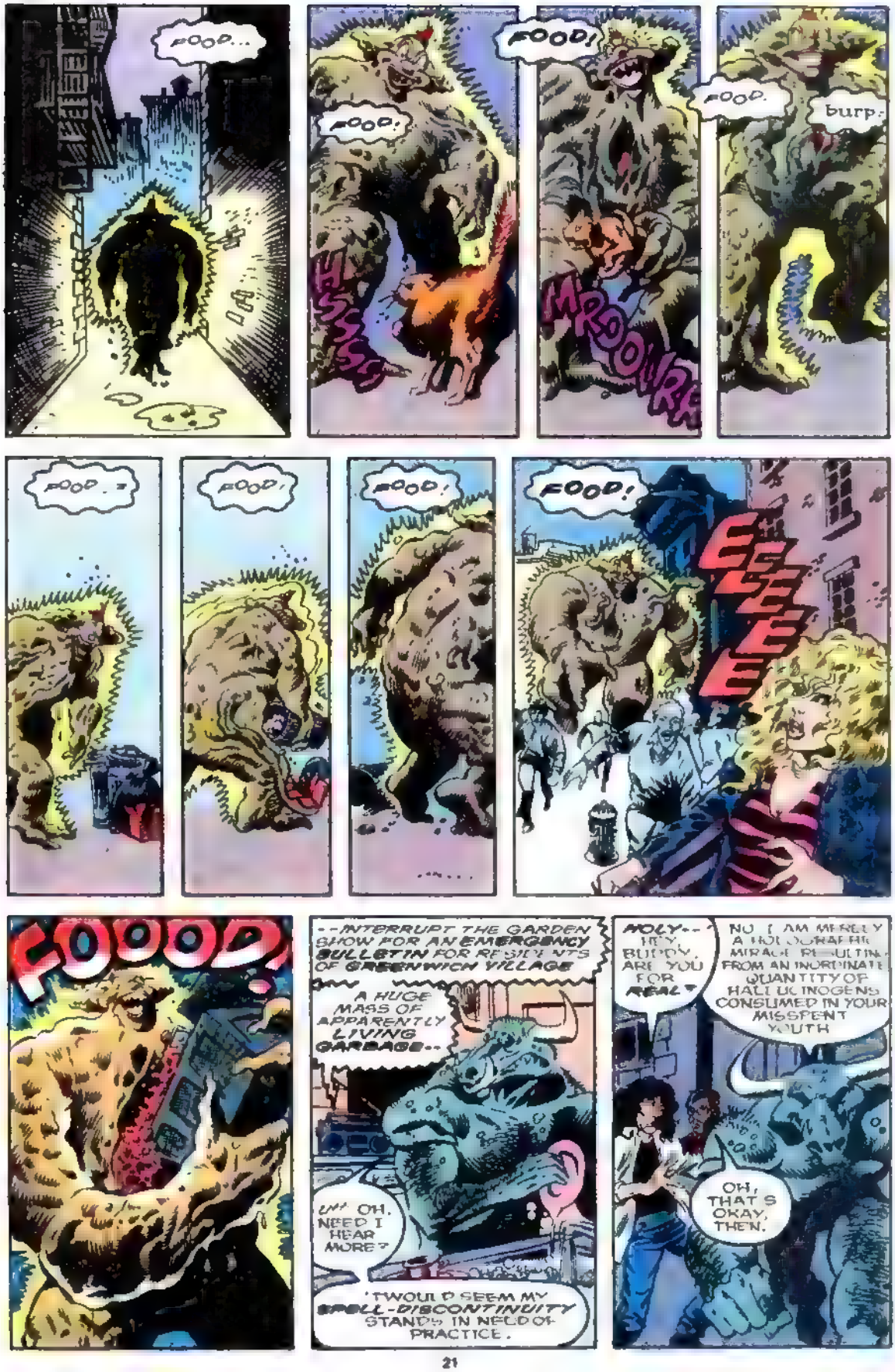
DON'T MISS IT, TRUE BELIEVERS!

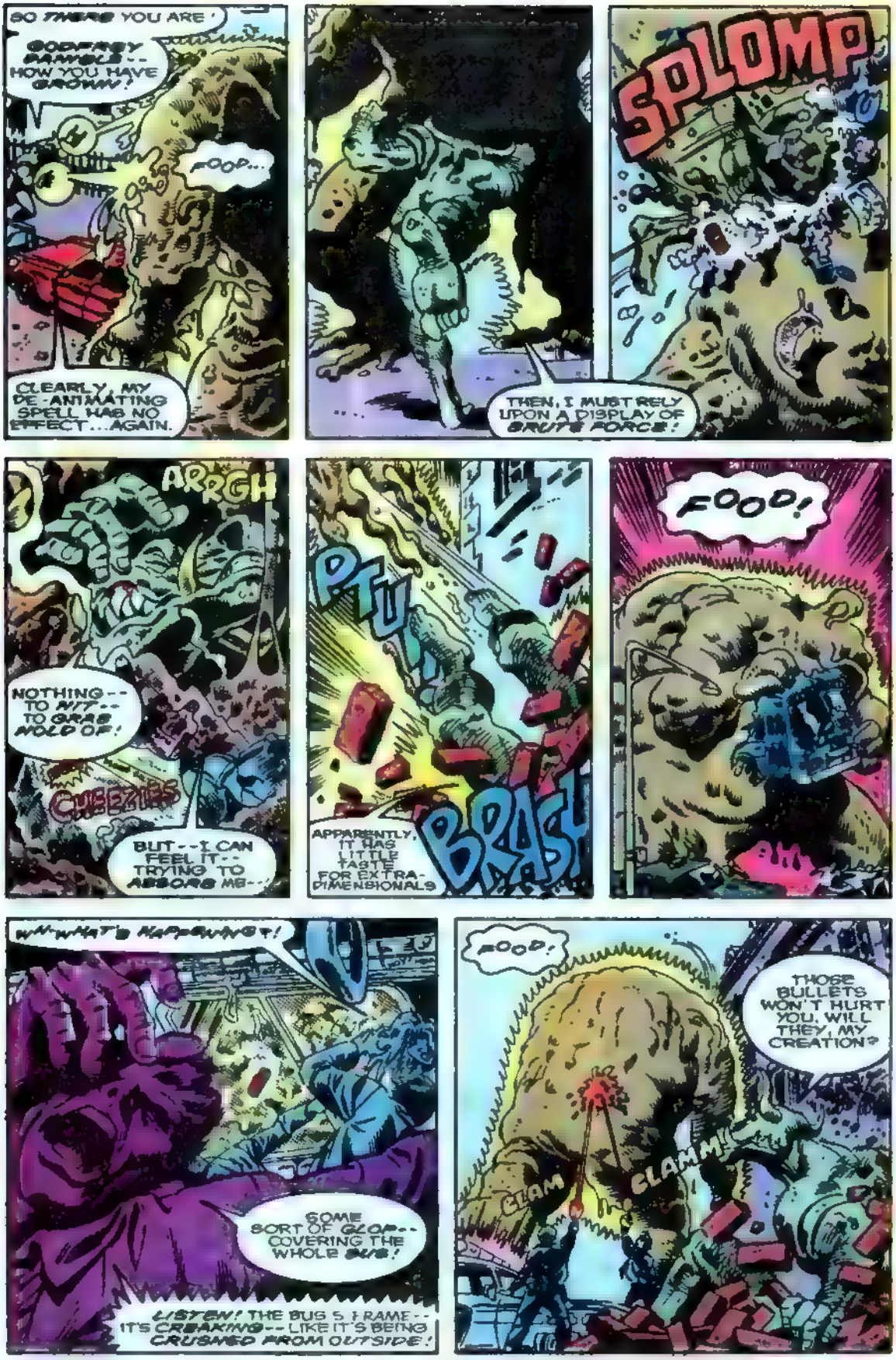
TRASHED!
FEATURING.
DR. STRANGE & RINTRAH
SOME DAYS, I RATHER LIKE HAVING AN APPRENTICE.
BY MYSTIC MOONS OF MUNNOPOR-- WHERE LIGHT AND DARKNESS GRAYLY STRIVE-
--MAY NOW THIS SCROLL AND CHEST AND AMPHORA THE MOONS' GREAT POWER MAKE COME ALIVE!
SWANNEE, HOW I LOVE YA, HOW I LOVE YA
FAITH AND BEGORRA, MASTER!
BEEN WATCHING THOSE OLD MOVIES ON TV AGAIN, EH, RINTRAH?
YOUR TURN

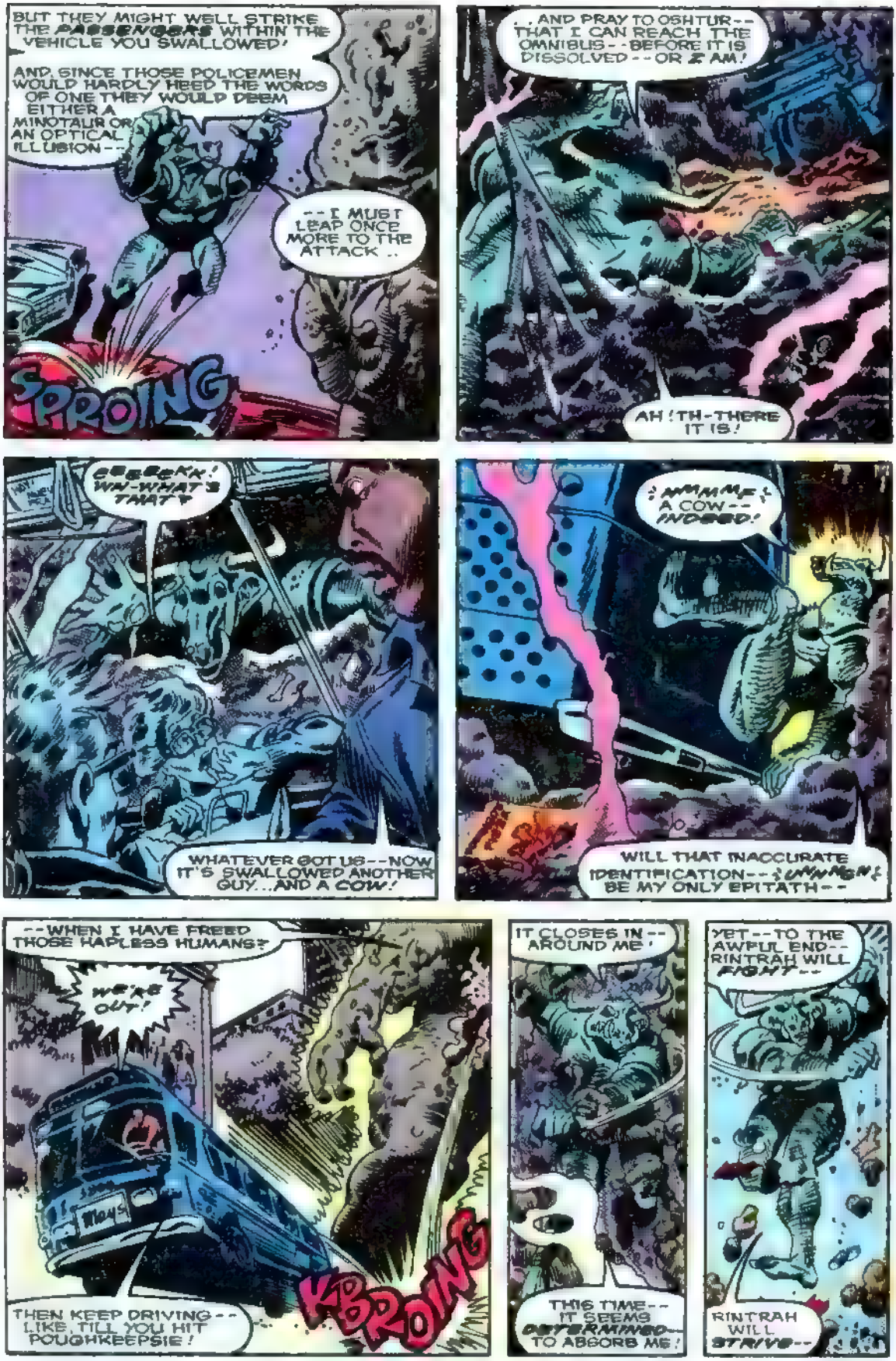

BY MYSTIC MOONS OF MUNNOPOR--
WHERE LIGHT AND DARKNESS GRAYLY STRIVE--
MAY NOW THIS LOWLY HOUSEHOLD BROOM--
--THE MOONS' GREAT POWER MAKE COME ALIVE!
MASTER--IT WORKED!
HMMM. "FANTASIA" WASN'T BY ANY CHANCE ON THE DISNEY CHANNEL LAST NIGHT WAS IT?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, MASTER.
I THOUGHT SO AND PLEASE--
--DON'T SAY "MASTER" EVERY TIME YOU SPEAK.
YES, MASTER.
RINTRAH..
I MEAN.. YES, JUST YES.
ARE THESE OBJECTS TRULY ALIVE, MASTER?
SIGH--NO, THEY'VE ONLY A SEMBLANCE OF LIFE, FOR AS LONG AS I CONTINUE CASTING MY SPELL OF ANIMATION..
SINCE, AS YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED, I CAREFULLY DID NOT BREAK OFF THE SPELL IN MID-GESTURE.
NOW, BACK TO YOUR PLACES, LITTLE FRIENDS..
YOW, TAFI, BOSS!
AND TO YOUR INANIMATE STATES
LIKEWISE FOR YOU, NOBLE BROOM
NEXT, I'LL SHOW YOU A SPELL WHICH--
BY THE VISHANTI! MY AMULET!
SOMEONE CALLS YOU, MASTER?
YES IN A NEIGHBORING DIMENSION.
BUT, MASTER... MY LESSON--
--IS ENDED BUT I'VE A MOST IMPORTANT TASK FOR YOU NOW.
YES, MASTER?

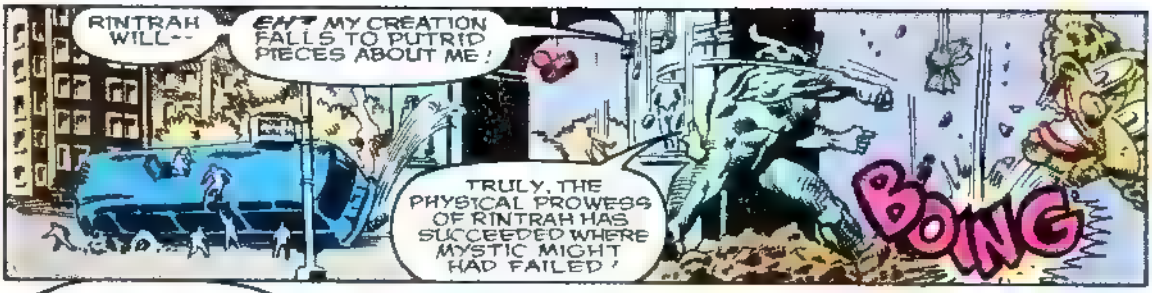
HELP WONG WITH THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES.
YES, MASTER.
FRIEND WONG, DR STRANGE... REQUESTED THAT I ASCERTAIN IF YOU STAND IN NEED OF ANYONE TO--
TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE
MMM.. IS THERE NOTHING MORE DIGNIFIED I COULD DO INSTEAD? I--
IN THE RELIGIONS OF MY HOMELAND, FRIEND RINTRAH, NOVICES SWEEP THE TEMPLES BEFORE THEY PRESIDE OVER THEM AS PRIESTS.
DO NOT FORGET YOUR SPELL OF DISGUISE WHEN YOU EMPTY THE TRASH OUT BACK
FOR THIS, I RESIGNED MY FAVORED POSITION IN MY HOME DIMENSION AS APPRENTICE TO SNITHARMON THE WEAVER?
WELL, TO BE UNIMPEACHABLY HONEST, HE DID THROW ME OU--
MRROW
PLEASE STEP ASIDE, SMALL FURRY ANIMALS.
I WOULD NOT WISH TO--
ENT
MRROW
SUFFERIN' SUCCOTASH!
SPLANNG
pHeW! IT WILL SURELY TAKE AN UNBUDGETED SECOND BATH THIS MOON-PERIOD TO SEPARATE THIS UNSEEMLY [redacted] FROM MY PERSON.
BUT--AT LEAST IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY TO DIRTY MY PRIMARY APPENDAGES FURTHER, RECOLLECTING THE TRASH.
THAT UNOCCUPIED AND ALREADY FILTH-FILLED SPACE YONDER--A "VACANT LOT", AS THE MASTER CALLS IT--!
I SEEM TO RECALL THERE ARE TEMPORAL LAWS UPON THIS PLANE AGAINST DEPOSITING ONE'S PERSONAL DEBRIS IN SUCH PLACES


STILL IF THE RUBBISH WERE TO DEPOSIT ITSELF...,
ANEMI, BY MYSTIC MOONS OF MUNNOPOR-- WHERE LIGHT AND DARKNESS GRAYLY STRIVE--
- MAY NOW THIS GARBAGE PICE OF RANCID FOOD THE MOONS' GREAT POWER MAKE COME ALIVE!
F. FOOD
I AM MAKING PROGRESS!
THIS TIME MY SUBJECT TALKS, AS WELL!
I MUST REMEMBER TO MAKE MY NEXT CREATION MORE VISUALLY WORTHY OF THE MOTHER TONGUE OF SHAKESPEARE AND THE BROTHERS MARX.
FOOD..
THAT'S ENOUGH FROM YOU!
I HAVE LESS ODORIFEROUS FISH TO FRY
NOVELTIES
F. FOO- FOO--
--FOOD!

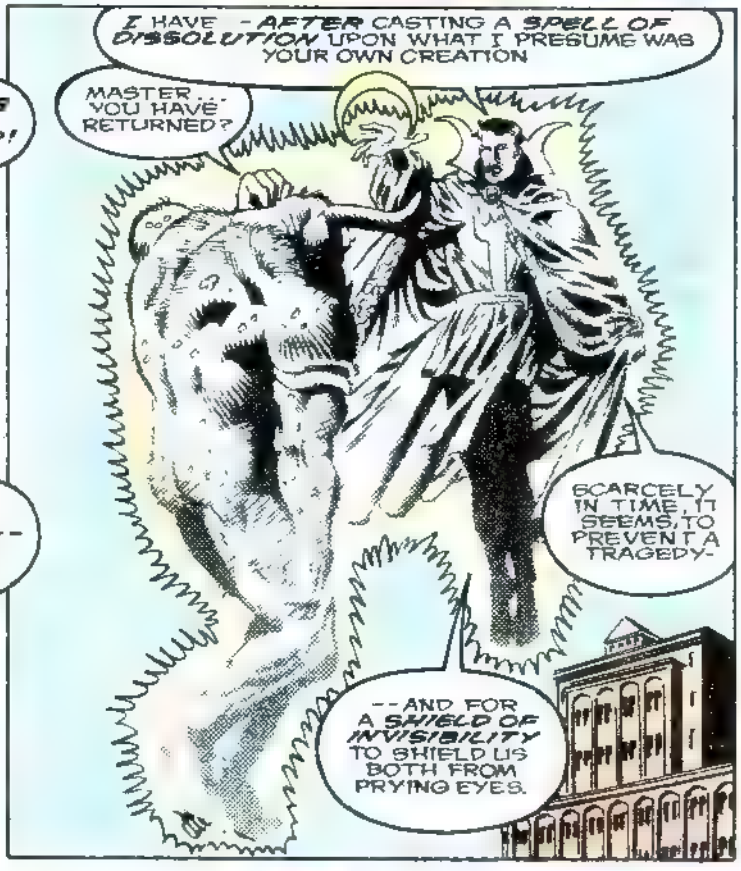

FOOD...
FOOD!
FOOD.
HSSSS
MROOWR
FOOD.
burp.
FOOD.
FOOD!
FOOD!
FOOD!
EEEEE
FOOD!
--INTERRUPT THE GARDEN SHOW FOR AN EMERGENCY BULLETIN FOR RESIDENTS OF GREENWICH VILLAGE
A HUGE MASS OF APPARENTLY LIVING GARBAGE--
UH! OH. NEED I HEAR MORE?
'TWOULD SEEM MY SPELL-DISCONTINUITY STANDS IN NEED OF PRACTICE.
HOLY--! HEY, BUDDY, ARE YOU FOR REAL?
NO. I AM MERELY A HOLOGRAPHIC MIRAGE RESULTING FROM AN INORDINATE QUANTITY OF HALLUCINOGENS CONSUMED IN YOUR MISSPENT YOUTH
OH, THAT'S OKAY, THEN.


SO THERE YOU ARE!
GODFREY DANIELS--HOW YOU HAVE GROWN!
FOOD...
CLEARLY, MY DE-ANIMATING SPELL HAS NO EFFECT...AGAIN.
SPLOMP
THEN, I MUST RELY UPON A DISPLAY OF BRUTE FORCE!
ARRGH
NOTHING--TO HIT--TO GRAB HOLD OF!
CUBEZITES
BUT--I CAN FEEL IT--TRYING TO ABSORB ME--!
PTU
APPARENTLY, IT HAS LITTLE TASTE FOR EXTRA-DIMENSIONALS
BRASH
FOOD!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
SOME SORT OF GLOP--COVERING THE WHOLE BUG!
LISTEN! THE BUG'S FRAME--IT'S CREAKING--LIKE IT'S BEING CRUSHED FROM OUTSIDE!
FOOD!
THOSE BULLETS WON'T HURT YOU, WILL THEY, MY CREATION?
CHAM
CLAMM!


BUT THEY MIGHT WELL STRIKE THE PASSENGERS WITHIN THE VEHICLE YOU SWALLOWED!
AND, SINCE THOSE POLICEMEN WOULD HARDLY HEED THE WORDS OF ONE THEY WOULD DEEM EITHER A MINOTAUR OR AN OPTICAL ILLUSION--
--I MUST LEAP ONCE MORE TO THE ATTACK..
SPROING
..AND PRAY TO OSHTUR--THAT I CAN REACH THE OMNIBUS--BEFORE IT IS DISSOLVED--OR Z AM!
AH! TH-THERE IT IS!
CRRRRRK! WH-WHAT'S THAT?
WHATEVER GOT US--NOW IT'S SWALLOWED ANOTHER GUY...AND A COW!
MMMMF! A COW--INDEED!
WILL THAT INACCURATE IDENTIFICATION--MMMMF! BE MY ONLY EPITATH--
--WHEN I HAVE FREED THOSE HAPLESS HUMANS?
WE'RE OUT!
KBROING
THEN KEEP DRIVING--LIKE, TILL YOU HIT POUGHKEEPSIE!
IT CLOSES IN--AROUND ME!
THIS TIME--IT SEEMS DETERMINED--TO ABSORB ME!
YET--TO THE AWFUL END--RINTRAH WILL FIGHT--
RINTRAH WILL STRIVE--


RINTRAH WILL--
EH? MY CREATION FALLS TO PUTRID PIECES ABOUT ME!
TRULY, THE PHYSICAL PROWESS OF RINTRAH HAS SUCCEEDED WHERE MYSTIC MIGHT HAD FAILED!
BOING

EVEN MY ERSTWHILE MASTER, ENITHARMON, WILL NOW BE FORCED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I--
HEAVENS TO MURGATROYD!
WHAT HAS DRAWN ME UPWARD-- INTO THE VERY AIR?

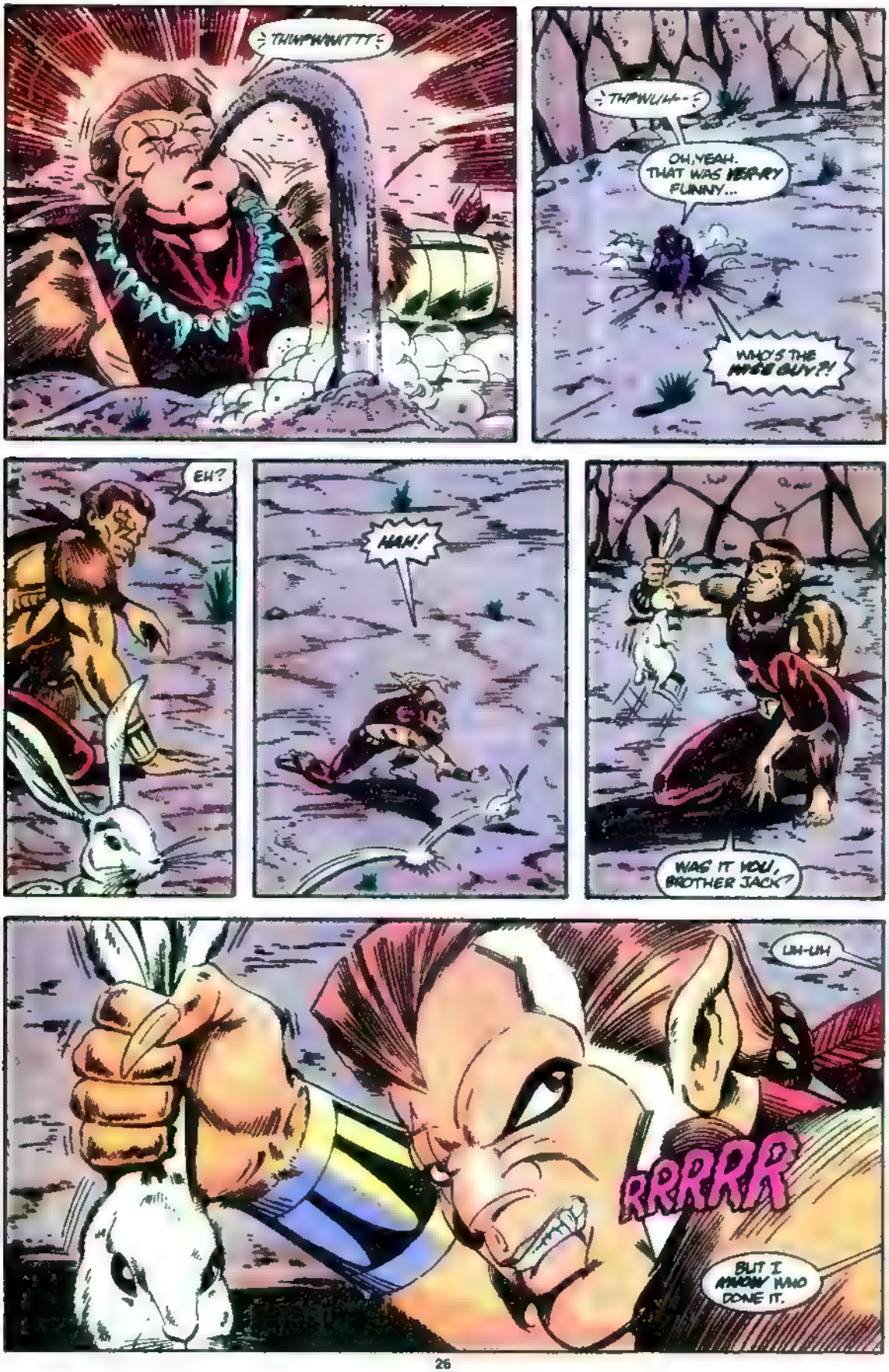

I HAVE --AFTER CASTING A SPELL OF DISSOLUTION UPON WHAT I PRESUME WAS YOUR OWN CREATION
MASTER... YOU HAVE RETURNED?
SCARCELY IN TIME, IT SEEMS, TO PREVENT A TRAGEDY-
--AND FOR A SHIELD OF INVISIBILITY TO SHIELD US BOTH FROM PRYING EYES.

MASTER-- PLEASE ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN, I WAS MERELY--
YOU'RE AN ABLE PUPIL, RINTRAH, WITH CONSIDERABLE SORCEROUS POTENTIAL..

BUT I MAY HAVE TO START RESTRICTING YOUR T.V. PRIVILEGES.
SOME DAYS, I RATHER LIKE HAVING AN APPRENTICE

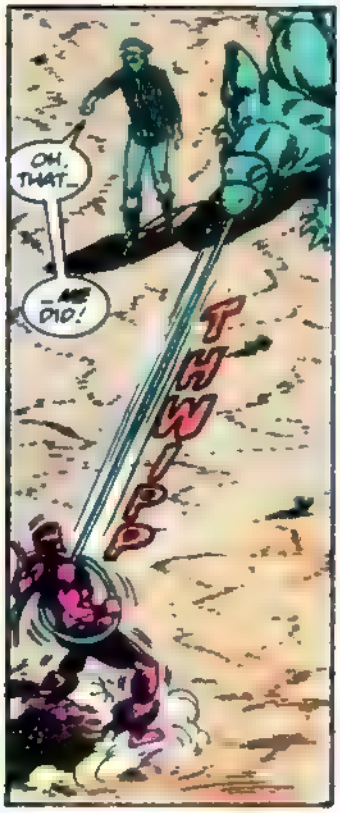
PERHAPS TOMORROW WILL BE ONE OF THEM
THE END.

RUMA
CATS...
...HATE WATER.
SPLOOSH
...AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK!


THWPWWTTT
THPWUH--
OH, YEAH. THAT WAS VERY FUNNY...
WHO'S THE WISE GUY?!
EH?
HAH!
WAS IT YOU, BROTHER JACK?
UH-UH
RRRRR
BUT I KNOW WHO DONE IT.

WHO--?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING SNEAKING UP ON ME LIKE THAT? NOBODY EVER SNEAKS UP ON ME!
HOW DID RAW MEAT LIKE YOU STAY HIDDEN FROM MY HEIGHTENED SENSES?
'CUZ I'M DEAD, YA BLASTED IDJIT! GOLDANG ANIMAL SPIRIT POWERS AND YA CAN'T EVEN TELL THAT?
THOUGH I SURELY WISH BEIN' DEAD COULD KEEP ME FROM SWEATIN' LIKE THE DEVIL IN THIS HEAT!

NOT MY PROBLEM, OLD MAN... ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS WHO CHANGED THE DESERT TO WATER JUST NOW?!

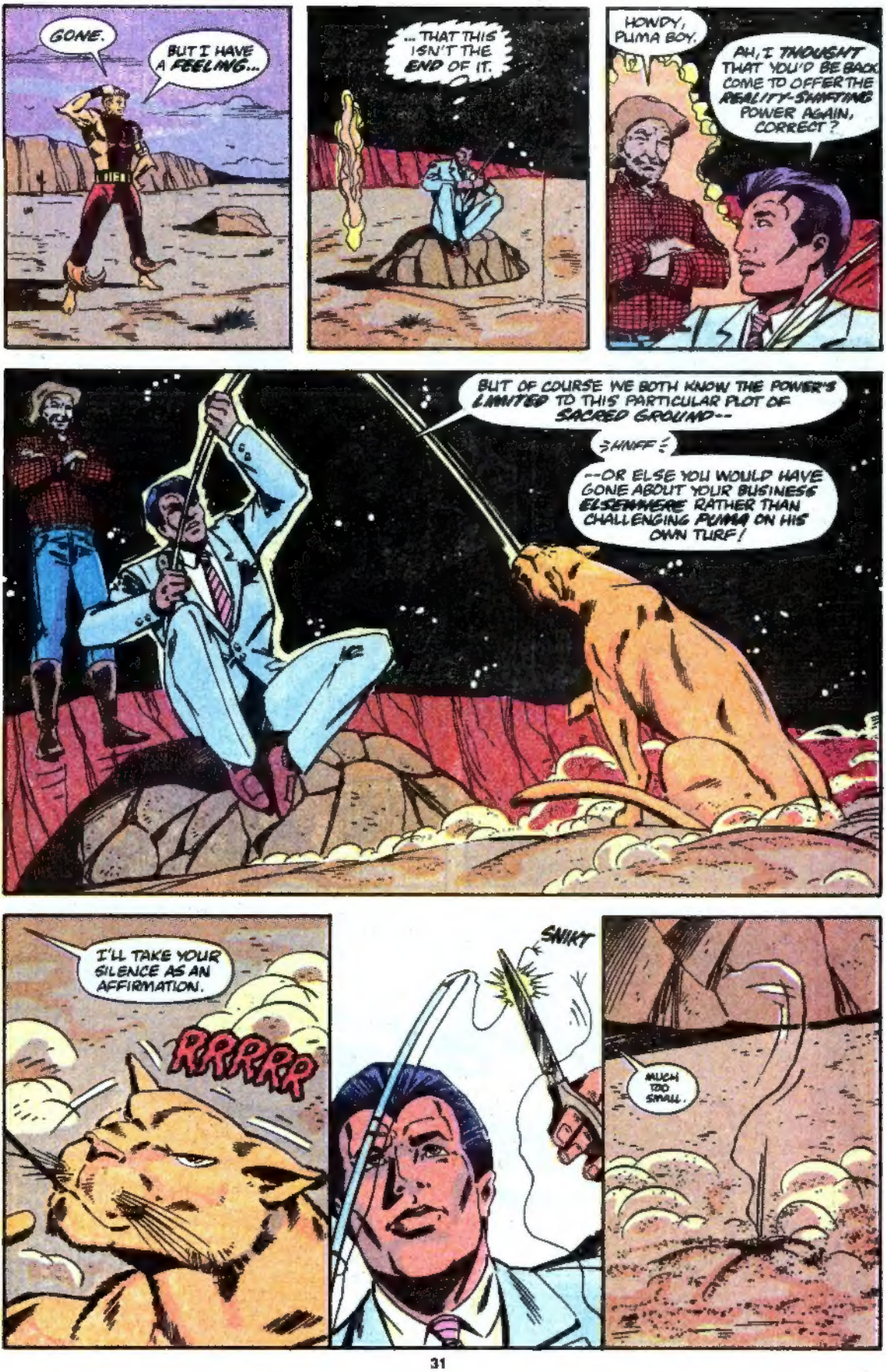

OH, THAT...
ME DID!
THWIPP

I HAVE STAKED A CLAIM ON THIS PLOT OF LAND, PUMA!
OH, GREAT-- A TELEPATHIC LIZARD! I HATE THAT... MY HEAD'LL BE RINGING FOR HOURS NOW!
I WILL SHAPE THE DESERT INTO AN OASIS!
SHKKKK

AND I'LL SEE YOU STOCKING THE LADIES' HANDBAG DEPARTMENT AT NEIMAN-MARCUS FIRST.
FWAP
THIS LAND IS SACRED TO MY TRIBE--AND IN CASE IT HASN'T DAWNED ON YOU, I'M IT'S PROTECTOR!
"SACRED" -BAH!
EXAMINE YOUR HEART PUMA! THERE IS NOTHING SACRED TO YOU!
THE MATERIAL WORLD IS THE ONE YOU CLING TO--
--AND DESPITE YOUR POWERS, YOU DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IN THE TRIBAL RELIGION YOU CLAIM TO DEFEND!
BUT IF YOU MUST...

...DEFEND AWAY!
YIKES!
ALL RIGHT, I WILL--
-BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME TO!
TWAP
=URKK=
BLOWS, PUMA-- MERE BLOWS.
AND FURTHER PROOF OF HOW FAR YOU HAVE STRAYED FROM THE ANCIENT WAYS-- YOU CANNOT EVEN TRANSFORM REALITY AS I DO...
...OR AS YOUR NAMESAKE, THE PUMA-GOD OF TRIBAL LEGEND ONCE DID!
WHOAA!
AND WITHOUT THAT POWER, YOU ARE BUT A SWAMI!
WOOMP
NOW YOU'RE GETTING PERSONAL--!
BUT HEAR ME, MAN WHO WOULD BE PUMA...
I CAN TEACH YOU THE TRICK OF TRANSFORMATION! THE POWER CAN BE YOURS--
--IF YOU WOULD BUT STAND ASIDE AND LET ME HAVE MY WAY WITH THIS SACRED GROUND!

THE TRICK OF TRANSFORMATION ...THE POWER TO SHAPE REALITY?
YES--YESS. I HAVE TOUCHED THE TRUE SSOUL OF PUMA WITHIN YOU, HAVEN'T I?
I--
--THINK I'LL PASS!
OR "PASSSS," FOR THOSE WHO NEEDED A SIMUL-TANEOUS TRANSLATION.
YOUR LITTLE GAME IS UP, OLD MAN! IT IS YOU I REALLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT A DESERT LIZARD WHO'D WISH FOR AN OASIS, BUT A MAN...
...OR THE GHOST OF A MAN WHOSE FATE IS STILL TO FEEL THE DESERT'S SCORCHING HEAT.
DANG... IT'S HOT...
HUH?


GONE.
BUT I HAVE A FEELING...
...THAT THIS ISN'T THE END OF IT.
HOWDY, PUMA BOY.
AH, I THOUGHT THAT YOU'D BE BACK COME TO OFFER THE REALITY-SHIFTING POWER AGAIN, CORRECT?
BUT OF COURSE WE BOTH KNOW THE POWER'S LIMITED TO THIS PARTICULAR PLOT OF SACRED GROUND--
>HNIFF!
--OR ELSE YOU WOULD HAVE GONE ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS ELSEWHERE RATHER THAN CHALLENGING PUMA ON HIS OWN TURF!
I'LL TAKE YOUR SILENCE AS AN AFFIRMATION.
RRRRR
SNIKT
MUCH TOO SMALL.

WAL, I GUESS I OUGHTA--
NO, DON'T GO JUST YET.
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
IT'S CALLED A CREDIT CARD--IT ALLOWS YOU TO PAY FOR THINGS WITHOUT CASH.
THAT ONE'S YOURS. YOU CAN USE IT TO TAKE YOU TO WHATEVER COOL, WET CLIMATE YOU DESIRE--AND BACK AGAIN IF YOU'D LIKE.
I'LL PAY THE BILL EACH MONTH.
WHY THAT'S MIGHTY THOUGHTFUL OF YA, PUMA, CONSIDERIN' WHUT I PUT YA THROUGH.
BUT IT'LL GIT AWFUL EXPENSIVE, WON'T IT? WHY NOT JUST LET ME HAVE MY LITTLE OASIS RIGHT HERE LIKE I WANTED?
THE TRIBE WOULDN'T CARE FOR THAT, I'M AFRAID...
... AND I'M SO FILTHY RICH I WON'T MISS THE MONEY.
ALL IN ALL, IT SEEMS THE RATIONAL ANSWER TO EVERYONE'S PROBLEMS.
AND BESIDES...
THWIP
... CATS HATE WATER.
END.

WONDER MAN
VS. THOR IN A DUEL TO THE DEATH!
RUMP
IN THE DESERT OF DANGER!
DR. STRANGE
AND RINTRAH.. VS. THE DUMP OF DOOM!
Buscema
MACHLAN